



Congresswoman Susan A. Davis

Serving California's 53rd Congressional District

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Energy Efficiency and Savings

Description

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$16.8 billion for energy efficiency programs administered by the Energy Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Department of Energy:

- **Federal Building Modifications:** The measure appropriates \$5.5 billion for federal building construction and repair projects, and of that total the law directs \$4.5 billion for projects that achieve the highest levels of energy efficiency for buildings known as "high performance green buildings." Renovations include: photovoltaic cells (solar panels) on rooftops, lighting systems with timers and occupancy sensors, and more energy-efficient mechanical systems.
- **Low-Income Housing Weatherization:** The law provides \$5 billion for the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, which covers some of the costs of insulating low-income residences, with an eligibility limit of 200% of the federal poverty line and a maximum amount of \$6,500 per resident.
- **Energy Efficiency Block Grants:** The law provides \$3.2 billion for grants for the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program which provides state, local and tribal governments funding for public facility renovation projects that would install more energy efficient building technologies and materials and energy efficient technology demonstration projects.
- **State Energy Program:** The law provides \$3.1 billion for Department of Energy's State Energy Program, which provides grants to states to fund state government energy technology research and development programs.

- Energy Research & Development: The law provides \$2.5 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment projects.
- Advanced Battery Technology: The law provides \$2 billion for domestic manufacturing facilities to develop more advanced vehicle batteries.
- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program: The law provides \$300 million for an Energy Department grant program that provides funding assistance for energy efficient consumer appliance rebate programs. Currently, 15 states have such programs, which provide rebates to consumers who purchase energy efficient “energy star” appliances to replace used, less efficient appliances, which must be relinquished upon purchasing the new appliances.

Aid to Individuals:

- Weatherization: Helps low-income families make their homes more energy efficient through projects like adding insulation.
- Increase in tax credits for residential energy efficiency improvements: Increases tax credits for purchases to make homes energy efficient, such as new furnaces or insulation, to 30 percent through 2010, for up to \$1,500.
- Incentive for alternative vehicle: Increases the tax credit for purchasing plug-in hybrid vehicles to \$7,500.
- Native American housing units: Provides funds to repair and modernize 4,200 homes.
- Education and Job Training: Provides funding for training workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy fields.
- Consumers rebates for energy-efficient appliances
- Tax incentives for residential renewable energy properties: Removes dollar caps on the 30 percent residential credit for solar thermal, geothermal and small wind property.

Aid to Businesses:

- Tax incentives for renewable energy facilities: Extends production tax credit for wind energy facilities through 2012 and other renewable energy facilities through 2013. Allows renewable facilities to claim investment tax credit instead of production tax credit. Removes cap on investment tax credit for small wind property. Allows renewable energy producers to claim a 30

percent cash grant from the Treasury Department in lieu of the 30 percent investment tax credit.

- Incentives for advanced energy investment: Establishes a new 30 percent investment tax credit for manufacturers of advanced energy property, which may include technology for the production of renewable energy, energy storage, energy conservation, efficient transmission and distribution of electricity, and carbon capture and sequestration.
- Incentives for alternative fuel pumps: Increases tax credits for gas stations and other businesses that install non-hydrogen, alternative fuel pumps to 50 percent through 2010, up to \$50,000.

Department of Housing and Urban Development:

- Energy Efficiency Upgrades: Provides \$2.3 billion for energy-efficient renovations and retrofits of Section 202, Section 811 and Section 8 units. Funds would be administered through a competitive process.

How to obtain the benefit:

Per Section 1201 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act all information on a specific benefit, how to qualify, and how to obtain a benefit will be listed on www.recovery.gov. The information should be posted soon.

Questions or Help

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act website: www.recovery.gov

US Department of Energy: www.doe.gov

US Department of Housing and Urban Development: www.hud.gov

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